

Pembrokeshire Friends of the Earth press release

Immediate release: 4 November 2024

### **Ceredigion Preseli MP backs call for fair and ambitious climate action plan**

- **Ben Lake, MP, to write to Prime Minister**
- **A photo of the meeting between Ceredigion Preseli MP Ben Lake and Pembrokeshire Friends of the Earth**



Ceredigion Preseli MP Ben Lake, has been congratulated by Friends of the Earth for calling for a tougher government action plan to tackle the climate crisis.

Following a meeting with Pembrokeshire Friends of the Earth on Friday 1 November, Ben Lake has agreed to write to the Prime Minister, Keir Starmer urging him to show leadership on the climate crisis by drawing up a fair and ambitious plan to cut emissions [1].

The new government has to write a new climate plan in the coming months after a High Court judge ruled that the previous plan - introduced by Rishi Sunak's government - was unlawful, following a successful legal challenge [2] by Friends of the Earth earlier this year.

UK targets for tackling climate change are dangerously off track, and over recent years, the gap has grown.

Pembrokeshire Friends of the Earth says that the new plan must put UK climate targets back on course and ensure that the benefits of building a green economy, such as new jobs and lower bills, are felt by everyone - especially those on lower incomes.

The meeting between Friend of the Earth and Ben Lake was part of a wider Common Grounds Day of Action, organised by The Climate Coalition, where constituents around the country met up with their MPs to urge them to show leadership on the climate and nature crises.

**Ceredigion Preseli MP Ben Lake, said:**

"A bold action plan to build a greener future is crucial to addressing both the climate crisis and the deep-rooted economic inequality in our nation. That's why I fully support Friends of the Earth's call for a fair and ambitious strategy that reduces our dependence on foreign oil and gas while positioning ourselves at the forefront of a green industrial revolution. However, bold action must come with real investment in sustainable energy that considers the needs of all communities, ensuring fairness for people in both urban and rural areas across the country. The devastating effects of climate change that we see too often in every part of the world call for urgent action. This demands not just immediate attention but a thorough, community-centred approach to planning for a sustainable future."

**Bettina Becker of Pembrokeshire Friends of the Earth, said:**

"We're delighted Ben Lake has joined the call for a stronger climate action plan.

"We urgently need a credible plan to meet our climate targets, that benefits people - not polluters.

"Without bold action, communities that are already at the sharp end of inequality will face the harshest impacts of the climate emergency.

"The government must show the climate leadership that has been so seriously lacking, by setting out a clear route map for building a greener future, so everyone reaps the benefits of lower energy bills, warm homes, clean air and better public transport."

ENDS

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**Notes to editors:**

1. The government has to draw up a new climate action plan by early May 2025. This is a legal requirement after the current plan – introduced by Rishi Sunak's

government - was found to be unlawful following legal challenges by Friends of the Earth, ClientEarth and Good Law Project (see note 2).

Friends of the Earth is calling for a fair and ambitious climate plan that ensures that the government's legally binding climate targets, and its pledge to cut UK emissions by two thirds by 2030, are actually met. Both are currently both off track. The plan must also ensure that the transition to a green economy is fair and tackles existing inequalities through lower energy bills, warm homes, clean air, better public transport and well-paid green jobs.

2. Landmark High Court judgment finds government's climate plan 'unlawful' – again | Friends of the Earth press release: <https://friendsoftheearth.uk/latest/landmark-high-court-judgment-finds-governments-climate-plan-unlawful-again>